Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield. Wednesday.

Beloved Billy.

In spite of my two letters from you yesterday I had one today. So I have been very well M. I can't think why my letters have reached you in such an erratic manner, but it has not been my fault for I have written every day. I shall continue to do so, dead or alive. I am writing this today but I think I shall post it when I reach Leeds tomorrow for it will probably reach you quicker in that way.

I leave this by a 10.16 train
& have two hours in London
& then go on to Harrogate. I
am sorry to leave Nelly. Though
I expect they have had quite
enough of me. This morning
I finished the portrait. I
don't know what it's like:
sometimes I shiver at the
sight & sometimes I think
it's d-d-good! I think really
it's not bad as a sketch
but I don't know that it's
much of a picture. Nelly says
she likes it: but then she
would in any case. I shall
leave it here for her to bring to

down. This afternoon Lord R. & I motored to the Lythams. about 10 miles off. It is very cold & blowing a gale & raining & only yesterday we sat out as if it were mid summer. The Lythams are very queer. Judith was dressed in a short white muslin dress. with strings & pearls round her neck & large ear-rings & hair - well at your worst Billy. you were never so like a forge brush - & painted cheeks. Neville L. was very nice. & we discussed the Friday Club. He seems very keen & sanguine about it. & is going to get 5 or 6 new members to join. I don't think I shall be able to live up

& his ideas - for he thinks all modern art beneath contempt. He'll have a shriek when he sees my things & poor old Dobbins. I was amused at seeing Lord R. with them. He doesn't beat you in brains, Billy for he doesn't compete with you. I daresay as you say it's chiefly training. He didn't like Judith but he like Neville. He sat looking at them both with a very sharp & critical lawyer's eye - I enjoy seeing the effect different types make on each other. I don't think Judith much liked him either. We walked back part of the way together chiefly in silence. I suppose he does have moods of silence as Kitty & Violet said. But I have them

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

myself. so I dont mind. As you know I dont wish to be always talking. He & Kelly are an interesting couple. This evening at dinner we got up a discussion as to whether art was spiritual or material - the art of painting that is. Lord R. & I said it was inclined to or at least flourished in material ages. & Kelly said it was spiritual & killed by materialism. She has got plenty of brains & very good ones. He is very logical & really has a good many views on art though he pretends to be hopelessly inartistic. We went on for hours - in the vast old Elizabethan

evening style! It was rather comic. I can talk when I am with the two of them, but when I see just Lord R. alone I feel a hopeless fool - & it would take a person like you, Billy to distinguish my "subtleties & beautiful reserves" from pure idiotcy. However no doubt I shall feel more up to the intellectual level of the Snowdon family tomorrow. Lord! How I do like living with clever people - even if they do make me feel a fool.

I was much amused by your account of Mrs Mott. What miracles there are in the world. I am sorry, Billy, that you think I had better not come to Sissinghurst. Do you think we

shall quarrel? I'll try to be
quiet. but you probably won't
be able to work while I'm there
as I don't suppose I shall do
anything but talk & I shall
want you to listen - except
of course when I am having
tête à têtes with Smith.
I only hope I shant find you
a miserable skeleton but I
dare say I shall. I have never
led such a healthy life as I
have here. Nelly is out all
day & seems to think it
the natural order of things
that everyone should be - so
in consequence I have walking
fits of Sussex air. which I
really enjoy being healthy
minded. When I am in
the country I lose my deep
affection for London & feel all

the attractions of the country very strong. How I wish I could put in a few words tomorrow - in the train posterly.

Thursday - I have just had tea in the train. I don't know where we are - but it is 4-30 & in a little more than an hour we shall reach Harrogate - I have no station & shall have to wait till I get to Harrogate till I can post this. I had lunch at home very comfortably & caught the 1-20 train - Gordon Sq. is quite green but it was snowing at Cole this morning. What remarkably short letters I write you Billy. I have read this one through with a fresh eye - However you kind always very nice & complimentary about my letters. I expect I told you a secret - I'm a little bored by the Swinton families but I suppose I shall breathe rarefied air again on Saturday. I'll let you know when I am over. I think about 7-30 - To my genius Abel Dawes portrait is refused by the R.A - Your friend

NYPL

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

1906.

Have you heard how
Violet is & whether she
knows anything?
The p. handkerchiefs are for
me & I'm very badly in want
Dec-13th

CLEEVE HOUSE.
SEEND.
MELKSHAM.

Beloved Bibby.

Of course I realized
that 2 & 2 make 5 & that I
could use your cheque-book.
But I still fail to see why
the devil there was'nt one
addressed to me. I suppose
you purloined it. It was
entirely out of kindness
to you that I sent yours
back thinking you must
just have written for a
new one & would miss it.
Now I'll enclose a cheque

for Sophy for £2-2- which I owe her - By the way, aren't there lots of bills for me? & do I now get all the things addressed to Miss Stephen? because I'm sure there must be a good many bills.

We went to see the Saints yesterday & found them just as usual only rather shy & subdued. They go to London tomorrow

so we shant see them again here, though we foresee a likely day when Nina will appear after we are married. I demand shelter if you are living near by Adrian shall be called in - Lamb wants if possible to do another drawing of Turby, from memory & from photographs - I doubt it wont succeed - but I had to give him the photograph I had brought here the full face one - Could you possibly send me the whole lot of proofs - which I would send back as soon as I have ordered such as I want from Bereford? I have not seen them

since we chose them in
Norfolk & I don't know which
I should like now -

Mr Bell went to see Gerry
yesterday & apparently liked
him very much - as he
was only there 20 minutes
I don't suppose they had
time for anything but
extreme politeness at
which of course Gerry
would shine. I think
you'll have to use the same
drastic measures that
I did if they become too
tiresome & write Margaret
a letter. Shall I do it for
you? You know how good
I am at letters of course. &
my 18th century French style is
really gorgeous - give my love
to Adrian - How are you both? Yours

I hope you aren't working too hard & aren't getting too much overwhelmed by everyone. When do you finish Sud? Another question - Take great care of yourself & Wombat-

Your Maire.

CLEEVE HOUSE
SEEND,
MELKSHAM

Dec. 14th

Beloved Monkey - Two letters from you yesterday. which was an unhoped for piece of luck. I can't make out your posts. They seem varied. However it may be more interesting My letters probably arrive with dull regularity. like the news they give. My letter yesterday was tiresome I know - & ought have made you swear -

nothing but questions stuck
in all odd corners.
I had to go for a drive with
Lorna yesterday morning
We get on very well & talk
quite easily to each other
though. like you I have
it up in my mind legs
all the time. I really
find it just as difficult
to do as you do. But
I must say most of my
day is spent not at all in

my mind legs but climbing
over trees in all forms
& with my tail waving
talking to Clive - Have any
other engaged couple
ever seen each other in
the way we have I wonder
We must have talked
hard to each other for
7 or 8 hours a day for
the last 3 weeks & yet
we never seem to have
time enough. I get
morbid sometimes &
think I must be boring
him or that it is all
too wonderful to be true
& that some awful catas-
trophe must happen -
but after all I suppose

it is true - I sent it - What does your philosophic mind think Billy?

Now this is going to be dark business I'm afraid - Could you ask Maud to send me a black skirt I think I possess - It's black cloth & fastens in front. If I have it she will know but I may have given it away.

Also could you sometime if it isn't an awful bother see if you could buy me a soft grey silk or other kind of blouse - no I think I'll see first if I can get me at Bath as we go there on Tuesday. My word - what is Jack up to? It sounds to me as if he were rather beside himself.

NYPL

1907

Mauvrès. R. S. O

Feb. 13th

Beloved Billy.

You were an angel to send us all those things today. As you will see the papers arrived this evening - We are particularly charmed by the envelopes. It is so nice not to have to fold ones paper. You're a highly talented little feast. I'm very proud of you. I had two

letters from you today,
one written on Monday
& one on Tuesday - as I
suppose I shant have
one tomorrow as it
generally takes two
days for NYPL your letters to
reach me - Lord - what
a commonplace object
Mr Bell's present is - but
I've persuaded myself &
thanked him.

Well, as usual, I painted
Clive this morning. & we

walked this afternoon. It was exactly as it used to be - a bright sun & high wind - & we went towards Pound Gillard - It certainly is most attractive country here.

I watch anxiously for mention of the Fitzroy Sq. house in your letters. & today it sounds as if you really were thinking of it. Is it the same one that you saw before? If so I suppose it's a charming house - It would certainly

te ideal as far as I
cricerned.

Well I must write to
Sophy & ask her to send
us some vegetables which
are unobtainable here.
Clive is writing to you
I believe - & Billy you
need never be afraid
of anything worse than
my having missed the
post if you don't hear
for of anything else
would certainly hear
How are you? & the

Marlborough.

March 22nd

Beloved Billy.

I suppose I ought really to write to Gosforth Sq. but I don't know your number here - for Tomorrow I think you said you will sleep here for the first time. I hope you won't be widely uncomfortable. Of course the business of arranging furniture in new, clean, empty

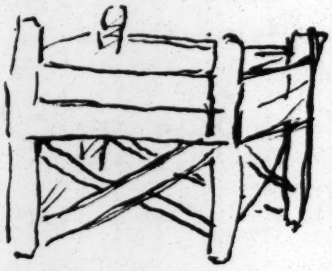
rooms is delightful to me, but I'm afraid you don't enjoy it so much. I wonder what I shall feel like, living alone with Clive in Gordon Square which yet will be quite different from Gordon Square. The old woman who woke up & said "is it I?" can't have had nearly such odd sensations as I shall have - I have great ideas

NYPL

for the studio. Mauve curtains with yellow linings is one item. All is to be rather dim & neutral. However one's practice never comes up to one's theories.

Our day has been spent as usual & there is nothing to tell you unless I were to repeat the conversation that goes on between Clive & Walter Lamb. But it is mostly about books & I know you don't care for that. We have been for a walk, by most sidely

cliffs which turn my hair grey – it is turning rapidly grey in any case – & we found a mysterious wooden object on the cliff – like this – what is it?



NYPL

roughly made of wood about 4 ft. high. Inside the square are boards as if to make a sort of table with high edges – Can your genius suggest a use for it? You see what lengths I am driven for news, Billy – I really have none except – that I want – very much – to see you & Thomas

T. PARSONS 3.2.73